



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2019-2020
MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
RESILIENCE



Commitment to Community

MaineCF and its donors respond quickly with grants for pandemic relief.

Every year MaineCF's Report to the Community offers an overview of the foundation's work, with donor and grantee stories, a review of financials, and a sampling of new funds among its features. This 2019-2020 edition offers that familiar content, but also reflects heightened awareness of the challenges Mainers face as the COVID-19 crisis continues and the nation and the world respond to violence against people of color.

The stories and photos that follow highlight ways MaineCF has responded to unparalleled needs – and how some very brave and dedicated organizations across the state are addressing inequities that adversely affect so many Mainers.

Thanks to the generous response of MaineCF donors, from mid-March to mid-June the foundation granted more than \$5.1 million to organizations serving Mainers most affected by COVID-19. Grants were for food, housing, health, child care, and other essential services. The COVID-19 pandemic highlights an acute reality: Due to systemic racism, people of color face greater risk of viral exposure, sickness, and death, while at the same time continuing to face racist violence and other forms of discrimination and injustice. MaineCF condemns racism in all its forms and is committed to help dismantle the structures and systems that perpetuate it.

In the shadow of the COVID-19 crisis, MaineCF staff continue to implement strategies that support our other focus areas. Our goal to support adult learners took on added urgency as educational institutions converted to remote learning centers almost overnight. In May, MaineCF made a \$75,000 grant to the Office of Adult Education to purchase devices for adult learners without computers so they could access the academic, English language studies, and workforce programs they need.

The Start Up Scale Up Grant Program, announced last fall at our statewide summit on entrepreneurship and innovation, made its first round of grants in May: \$200,000 to 10 Maine nonprofit organizations. These grants will help new ventures grow through shared workspaces and incubator and accelerator programs.

The foundation's strategic goals on ensuring a healthy start for young children and supporting older Mainers also strengthen our vision for a stronger Maine and are increasingly reflected in grantmaking.

The words of Anne Roosevelt, MaineCF board member and County Council chair, resonated with all of us when she wrote council members in May: "In this uncertain time, it is so important to keep alive our community consciousness and actions." All of us at the Maine Community Foundation are committed to work with you to do just that.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to improve the lives of all Maine people.



G. Steven Rowe
President & CEO



Karen W. Stanley
Chair, Board of Directors



D. Gregg Collins
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors

A Time to Speak

We must act now to end systemic racism.

The Maine Community Foundation condemns all violence and racism directed at people of color. The cries for justice grow louder each day.

More than 240 years after the birth of this nation, and 200 years after Maine statehood, systemic racism remains deeply embedded in our culture. Race remains the greatest predictor of health, education, wealth, and life expectancy outcomes, as well as vulnerability to pandemics such as COVID-19.

To remain silent is to be complicit with systemic racism. We must speak up and condemn racism in all its forms. We must become anti-racist in our thoughts and actions. This means actively confronting and dismantling the structures that perpetuate racism in our institutions and systems.

The Maine Community Foundation developed a strategic goal in 2017 that all people in Maine have access to opportunities and life outcomes that are not determined or predictable in any way by race or ethnicity. We have implemented a number of strategies designed to increase awareness about and reduce systemic racism. Our racial equity work was born out of listening deeply and working collaboratively with communities of color. We recognize the power and privilege we hold and are providing funding to organizations that address systemic injustice, which in turn improves the quality of life for all Mainers.

We are committed to doing more and welcome your participation.

Our nation's and state's collective commitment to ensuring racial equity is a moral and economic imperative. The future success of our society and our economy depends directly on our ability to fully engage and improve our systems for all. We cannot remain silent. We must act now to end systemic racism. **Please join us.**

What we're doing:

- Providing professional coaching to nonprofit leaders of color whose work builds racial equity in our communities
- Awarding economic opportunity grants through MaineCF's People of Color Fund
- Working with white leaders to increase understanding of systemic racism through MaineCF's Leadership Learning Exchange for Equity
- Supporting racial equity training for consultants through the Technical Assistance Consultants Cohort in collaboration with Maine Health Access Foundation
- Engaging MaineCF's board, staff, and volunteers in racial equity learning opportunities.



From the Front Lines

MaineCF COVID-19 grants provide funding during trying times.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Community Concepts, Lewiston

Safe space for people without homes in Lewiston and keeping connections with Head Start families were priorities – and immediate challenges – when the pandemic landed in Community Concepts’ backyard. The large nonprofit, which serves people in Western Maine, moved into high gear with support that included a flexible MaineCF grant.

Within 13 days, its staff had worked with the city, MaineHousing, and other local partners to open a 60-bed wellness shelter at Lewiston’s armory. It has been at or near capacity since it opened in late April. A 25-person staff, hired in only five days, is keeping those who are healthy housed and identifying people with symptoms to be tested and directed to additional services. “And it’s working. I’m absolutely convinced,” says Shawn Yardley, the nonprofit’s CEO.

Community Concepts’ staff also is ferrying food and diapers to families shut off from resources when the state’s largest Head Start program closed during the crisis.

“Families are isolated during this time,” Yardley says. “I think the best and most important thing that we do is an affirmation that we haven’t forgotten them, and they’re still connected.”

HEALTH & SAFETY

New Hope for Women, Midcoast

Isolation and the consequent need for remote services that maintain client privacy were a significant challenge during the pandemic. New Hope for Women (NHFW) continued to provide a 24-hour help line in Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties despite staff and volunteers working from home; implemented a chat service to meet the needs of those who prefer this option or who find this option safer due to nearby abusers; and arranged for sheltering with local lodging sites.

Maine Community Foundation grant monies are assisting with technology costs that allow NHFW to provide advocacy through remote and secure means. NHFW believes that hatred and marginalization of any sort are at the root of social justice issues such as domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

CHILD CARE

Bangor Region YMCA

Family. That’s what Diane Dickerson, CEO of the Bangor Region YMCA, focuses on when she reflects on current and future challenges to her organization. The Y serves more than 12,000 people, from babies to 102-year-olds, and many of them rely on it for health, wellness, socialization, education, food, and much more. “To separate this family of ours is very difficult,” says Dickerson.

That sense of family came to the fore this spring. Designated as an Emergency Care Center during the pandemic, Y staff has been caring for the children of health care workers, first responders, and other essential workers. “We are able to protect and provide care during this difficult time, which helps relieve some of the stress,” Dickerson notes. “They [the frontline workers] know their children are in a nurturing, loving environment and having the time of their lives.”

“Our Emergency Child Care Program has been rapidly growing every week as more parents are required to go back to work,” Dickerson reports. Their focus will continue on keeping children safe and teaching the Y’s core values: honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility. It’s all about family.

HOUSING

Emmaus Homeless Shelter, Ellsworth

“I am unsure that I can narrow [the challenges of COVID-19] down to one thing really,” says Stacey Herrick, director of the Emmaus Homeless Shelter. “If I had to put one word on it, I would say ‘adapting.’”

Protocol changes and implementations have sometimes made it difficult to keep up during the pandemic, says Herrick, but she’s proud of how residents, staff, and

community have shown their support. The shelter staff was “ahead of the game,” she says, wearing masks and installing plexiglass shields before stores and other public places put these precautions in place.

The shelter also shifted its programs to provide social distancing. It now offers food delivery for those unable to get to the facility. And while staff had to close its Free Clothing Room, they have arranged to have items picked up outside.

Finding housing for the homeless remains a priority. “We have signed leases via Zoom and looked at apartments just as we always have, with the same sense of urgency,” Herrick says. More than ever, the organization, founded in 1992, stands by its mission: to provide a safe and comfortable environment for homeless men, women, and families in Hancock and Washington counties.

FOOD

Feeding Mainers

The pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity in Maine. As many nonprofit organizations found their resources depleted, they shifted operations to meet new demands.

The crisis led to some innovative alliances. Adopt-a-Block of Aroostook, which supplies food, clothing, and furniture to those in need in the Houlton community, partnered with Catholic Charities and Good Shepherd Food Bank. They worked with 20 volunteer drivers to provide five tons of food to families in one month.

The Richmond Area Food Pantry, which is committed to reducing hunger in Richmond, Dresden, and Bowdoinham, saw a 40% increase in their clientele since March. “We were running out of food pretty quickly,” Janette Sweem, food pantry director, reported in early June. A MaineCF grant helped to ease their worries about how they’d manage to stock their shelves “for months to come.”

Photo: Storytime at the Bangor Region YMCA for children of essential workers. Photo courtesy Bangor Region YMCA

Reaching Out

Many hands provide food and critical information as the pandemic stalls services and creates economic uncertainty.

Nonprofit organizations and volunteers worked quickly this spring to make sure many Maine people had food in their cupboards. MaineCF awarded grants totaling nearly \$1 million for food to 56 organizations across the state, including \$279,000 to Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Funding to address food insecurity included more than \$500,000 from donor-advised funds, \$115,000 from the community foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, and \$350,000 from the Heald Fund, a bequest partially directed toward food insecurity.



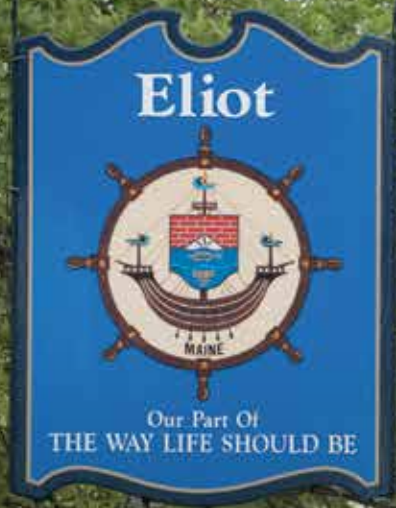
Photo 1: Somali Bantu Community Association, Lewiston: Habiba Salat clears weeds at Liberation Farms, the organization's community farming program. The program provides Somali Bantu families access to sustainable food production for themselves, their families, and schools in the community.

Photo 2: Community Concepts, Inc., Lewiston: Chelsey Leblanc and Ashley Herrick sort food in South Paris that will be distributed by the organization, which provides services in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties.

Photo 3: Ladder to the Moon/Amjambo Africa, Portland: Georges Budagu Makoko is the publisher of Amjambo Africa, a free newspaper that has kept many Maine residents from Africa updated on COVID-19 news in several languages.

Photo 4: Preble Street, Portland: Brett Mullen, a Preble Street staff member, provides lunch at one of three Preble Street Soup Kitchens that serve more than 1,100 meals daily to homeless and low-income adults and youth in Portland.

Photos Sijie Yuan



Communities for a Lifetime

In Eliot and Saco, volunteers rally to improve life for all ages in an uncertain time.

Jean Saunders and Ellen Ceppetelli admit they could talk forever. And they have a lot to talk about – not only their work as retired nursing administrators with graduate degrees in public health, but also strategies to improve life for all generations.

Saunders, of Saco, has worked with Ceppetelli on a MaineCF grant-funded initiative that pairs older adult fellows with other volunteers to improve their communities. Ceppetelli, of Eliot, leads her town's Aging-in-Place Committee that has tapped Saunders' experience as program coordinator at Age Friendly Saco.

And both, in these unprecedented times of video chats and social distancing, have learned anew how much people working together can accomplish in a very short time.

The University of Maine's Center on Aging launched the pilot Lifelong Communities Fellows Program last year with support from AARP and the Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging. Six communities, which include Vinalhaven Island and Knox County, have spent months assessing what matters most to their residents.

Eliot selectmen established Ceppetelli's committee to assess the needs of older people and the community's strengths. But the volunteers soon realized, "Wait a minute – it's regardless of age," says Ceppetelli. "You want to be in a community that's more livable." A place where all people will stay healthy, socialize, and be involved in decisions.

Saunders had discovered the same thing in her city as Age Friendly Saco took root in 2016: Millennials sought the same things as older residents, and vice versa. "They want a walkable downtown; they want access to public transportation," she says. "Being age-friendly means friendly for all ages."

This spring, the strengths and needs of Eliot and Saco emerged as residents rallied to face the novel coronavirus crisis. Food insecurity topped the list. In Eliot, readying to kick off its volunteer engagement, a new "Eliot Strong" Facebook page in just a few days drew 1,200 members from the community of just over 6,000. They were ready to do whatever it took to keep their neighbors safe – face masks, rides, food from a CSA, donations to the food pantry.

"It's a totally wonderful reflection of what we saw in our community survey and our interviews," says Ceppetelli. "The Eliot Strong response reaffirmed to me that the people of this community are just waiting to be able to do things for each other."

Saco residents were equally enthusiastic volunteers. Age Friendly Saco and its growing list of partners provided volunteer orientation, compiled a pandemic resource guide, arranged fundraisers so local restaurants could make dinners, delivered food, and created a database of 2,200 people age 70 or older for wellness checks.

"It's exciting," says Saunders. "We have a whole new cast of characters involved now. People are at home, people would like a sense of purpose. We are stronger. And we will be stronger coming out of this as well."

Eliot's lifelong communities work continues, pandemic or not. This month, voters will consider property tax relief

for older residents, a proposal the select board approved after residents told Ceppetelli and her committee that taxes were their top concern. While Eliot is in the state's top five communities for median income, 24 percent of its residents are 60-plus. Ceppetelli says people are leaving town because they can't afford their taxes.

"If you want to age in place in Eliot and you can't pay your taxes, you're not going to be in Eliot as you age," she says. She credits Saunders for the ballot question: "She fast-tracked us. We were able to follow a very strict timeline."

Saunders says that's the strength of lifelong communities: "Not every community that tries to start out should have to reinvent the wheel. We have lots of tools that we should be sharing."

Wise words from an outgoing fellow to someone who will follow her footsteps: Ceppetelli now has her sights set on sharing what she learned in Eliot – this time as a fellow for another community.

Photo: The Aging-in-Place Committee in Eliot recommended tax relief for older residents as a way to improve the quality of life.

Meet the Fellows

The Lifelong Communities Fellows Program provided experienced community leaders training and support to assist other communities in learning what residents need and want as they age. The initiative is part of MaineCF's strategic work to ensure older people are valued and able to thrive and age in their workplaces and communities.

Knox County: Anne Schroth of Blue Hill worked with a Knox County group to develop a strong lifelong community team, increase engagement by municipal partners, and draft a survey of residents.

Eliot: Jean Saunders of Saco helped develop a tax-relief proposal for older adults.

Vinalhaven: Allen Cressy of Topsham and an island team created a list of local and regional supports for older residents, developed and analyzed a needs survey, and built a coalition of organizations to implement identified changes.

Surry: Candy Eaton of Sullivan assisted with community asset mapping, interpreting survey findings, and organizing a community-wide event, Surry Connects.

Bangor: Karen Campbell of Bangor spearheaded the fundraising effort for a new senior center.

Danforth: Karen Campbell also helped Danforth host two focus groups, work on their community assessment, and plan a home repair project.



Grantee Spotlight: Waterville Creates!

Founded in 2014, Waterville Creates! (WC!) is the brainchild of area arts and cultural institutions, including the Waterville Opera House, Maine Film Center, Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville Public Library, Common Street Arts, and Waterville Main Street. WC!'s mission is to strengthen Waterville as a vibrant creative center, increase access to the arts, and advance community and economic development goals.

In April, Waterville Creates! received a \$10,000 MaineCF grant to develop a unified website for its organization, which merged with the Maine Film Center and the Waterville Opera House in 2018. These funds will allow it to take a critical next step to better serve arts patrons throughout Kennebec County and beyond with a user-friendly website for arts and cultural program information, which is currently spread across multiple sites.



“Waterville Creates! is firmly committed to providing accessible arts opportunities for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and incomes,” says Shannon Haines, WC! president and CEO. The Maine Community Foundation, Haines notes, is “one of the few resources that we can consistently turn to for funding not just for vital community programs but, perhaps even more importantly, for initiatives that build our organizational capacity.”

Haines welcomes the creation of a designated Kennebec County Fund. “It means that there is not only a permanent endowment to support the incredible work of local nonprofits, but also a dedicated group of advisors who understand the local landscape and are working on our behalf to direct funds where they will be most useful.”

Photo: Waterville Creates! launched online offerings during the pandemic, including this Virtual Art Club for All by Education and Outreach Coordinator Serena Sanborn, who demonstrates how to make a kitchen still life. They also distributed supplies for art projects in Waterville. Photos Sijie Yuan

MaineCF in Kennebec County

**Total assets benefiting
Kennebec County:**

\$3 million

**Grants and scholarships
awarded in 2019**

\$72,090

**Kennebec County Fund launched
2018**

**2020 match to grow the
Kennebec County Fund
\$250,000**

A sampling of 2020 Kennebec County grants:

Boys & Girls Club of Augusta, for a teen driving program, designed to enhance driver's education and help teenagers become better, safer drivers

Capital Area New Mainers Project, to increase visibility and expand programming by creating a welcoming community hub at the Augusta Multicultural Center

New England Music Camp Association, for an Orton Family Heart & Soul coordinator who will also work on the Community Development Plan for the Belgrade Lakes.

To learn more about the Kennebec County Fund, please contact MaineCF Foundation Officer Cate Cronin, at ccronin@mainecf.org.

A Fund for Kennebec County

A goal set in 1986 is fulfilled: Maine Community Foundation now has permanent endowments to benefit nonprofit organizations in all 16 Maine counties with the launch of the Kennebec County Fund.

MaineCF has been active in Kennebec County from early on. In the last 10 years alone, more than \$11 million in grants from competitive and donor-advised funds have been directed to community-building programs and projects in the county while just over \$400,000 in scholarships have supported Kennebec County students.

So, what is new? For one, a committee of local volunteer advisors who understand the region's assets and challenges will help direct funds where they will make the greatest impact. These advisors also help raise philanthropic dollars to support nonprofit organizations in the county.

Community leaders began work in 2018 to create this fund for the future. “This effort is bringing the county together – from Waterville to Gardiner, from Wayne to Unity – to address the needs of the region,” says steering committee member Charles “Wick” Johnson, CEO of Kennebec Technologies in Augusta. “Our goal is to inspire philanthropy in Kennebec County and strengthen nonprofit organizations that are helping to build communities.”

Contributions to the Kennebec County Fund will be matched up to \$250,000 until the end of 2020.



Fritz and Susan Onion of Wayne returned to Maine from California when it was time to raise their family. Photo Gabe Souza

Learning While Giving

When Fritz and Susan Onion returned to the place they love, they embraced philanthropy with open hearts and minds.

Fritz and Susan Onion met on the marching band field at Mt. Blue High School when he was a sophomore and she was a senior. She hailed from Farmington, he from Mount Vernon – both in the brass section playing trumpet and mellophone.

They chased their post-college dreams to California as newlyweds to pursue more education and jobs – library science and teaching for Susan and computer science for Fritz. After working at Oracle Corporation, attending graduate school and then contract teaching with DevelopMentor, Fritz and three others pitched in \$5,000 each to establish Pluralsight, a company focused on technical skills training.

Decades later, Fritz and Susan are back in the Lakes Region, ready to help support the state that drew them home when it was time for a family. And Pluralsight, founded in 2004, went public in 2017 and now boasts more than 2,000 employees.

For the past six years the Onions have embraced philanthropy through the Maine Community Foundation and their own Onion Foundation, which has awarded more than 800 grants to over 200 Maine nonprofits.

“It’s been an adjustment, for sure,” says Fritz. “It is an odd feeling to understand that you have the ability to make change, to help others and to enable nonprofits to do the work they do.”

They’ve stepped cautiously into their new work, learning the ropes from Maine organizations and other funders. “The philanthropic community in Maine is small and there’s a lot of sharing of practice... a lot of collaborative work,” says Susan. “The Maine Philanthropy Center has been an indispensable resource for partnering, advocacy, and learning.”

Their giving spans a broad spectrum. The Onion Foundation focuses on environmental stewardship, music, and the arts. Through their donor-advised fund at MaineCF they have supported collective initiatives such as entrepreneurship, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, and MaineCF’s new Kennebec County Fund.

They also established the Maine Community Population Health Initiative Fund through which Fritz’s father, a physician, works to improve rural health.

The flexibility of their donor-advised fund has allowed them to make grants in areas that are close to home and personally meaningful, including food insecurity, social justice and equity, Boys and Girls clubs, Saddleback Mountain, and Millinocket Memorial Library.

“Millinocket Memorial Library is the perfect example of what a library can be in a rural community. Beyond circulating books, they are a community hub connecting people to resources,” says Susan, a former public and school librarian.

Fritz, still an avid musician, fondly remembers their grants for Portland Symphony Orchestra concerts that bring school children from remote communities to the city for their first, and sometimes only, exposure to classical music.

“I attended one of the concerts and at the beginning the kids were loud and boisterous, but when the music started they were just at rapt attention. I felt like that was a really impactful event that made a lasting impression,” he says.

Working with the community foundation has helped them to be more responsive, leverage more dollars with other funders, and learn about diverse initiatives.

The COVID-19 health crisis has connected them with many struggling Maine nonprofits. The Onions’ initial support helped some organizations adjust to remote operations; their “second wave” funding will likely support nonprofits as they restaff and assess how to sustain their missions. “We are listening to what nonprofits are saying and preparing to support where needed.”

“We feel that philanthropy has an important role in helping address the systemic inequities in our society today,” Fritz says. “Nonprofits in Maine are doing incredible work and the current pandemic and ongoing racial injustices make the need for support even more urgent.”



Embracing Resilience

In 2020, as Maine faced unprecedented health and economic challenges, donors at the community foundation stepped up by increasing their grantmaking.

Here's how a donor-advised fund helps you and grows grantmaking

Partnering with MaineCF, an organization that shares your passion for Maine, can make a difference for you and your community. When you establish a donor-advised fund (DAF) at the community foundation, you make a charitable contribution, may receive an immediate tax deduction, work with staff who know Maine, and – over time – recommend grants to support causes you care about.

Setting up a donor-advised fund is easy with a one-page agreement, says Laura Young, MaineCF's vice president of philanthropy. She offers the following reasons to consider starting your own DAF at the community foundation:

- You'll meet other donors who love Maine
- A DAF can be an alternative or add-on to a private foundation
- You can make grants in Maine or elsewhere
- You may give cash and non-cash appreciated assets
- You'll receive a tax deduction (subject to IRS limitations)
- Your children or grandchildren could join you in giving

Funds Provide Donors Many Ways to Give Back

Education, the environment, racial justice: These three donors direct grants to these and other causes that matter most to them. They have also responded to the immediate needs of the pandemic.

McGoldrick Family Fund: Wide-ranging Philanthropy Richard and Carolyn McGoldrick set up the McGoldrick Family Fund at MaineCF in January 2004 in part to involve their daughters, Katherine Urbaneck and Meghan Stornelli, in philanthropy. Their grantmaking has supported education, with a focus on USM's Promise Scholarship for underserved young achievers, as well as leadership, the environment, and racial justice (a recent grant went to the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund). In response to the pandemic, the family directed grants to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine, Preble Street, Good Shepherd Food Bank, and My Place Teen Center. "Working with MaineCF builds on our knowledge of community needs even as it strengthens our family's giving," says Carolyn.

Ash Point Fund: Giving to Midcoast Maine Through her Ash Point Fund Susan St. John focuses on supporting Midcoast nonprofits working in youth education, land conservation, health, and other areas. Grants have gone to the Riley School, Georges River Land Trust, Mid-Coast Health Net, and the Hurricane Island Foundation, among other organizations in the region. Of note are several grants to The Apprenticeship in Rockland to support special projects like Break the Anchor, to construct a Portuguese sardine carrier from the 19th and 20th century. Says St. John, "The Maine Community Foundation and I are aligned in our fundamental values. At the same time, it is so easy to do all my philanthropic giving through one organization, and the personal support MaineCF is able to give is – simply – unsurpassed."

The Twilliams Fund: A Western Mountains Focus The Twilliams Fund, established by Jos Thalheimer and Larissa Williams in 2017, has supported community-building grants in the Western Mountains, including several transfers to MaineCF's Western Mountains Fund to increase its grantmaking capacity. This spring Thalheimer and Williams made grants to Good Shepherd Food Bank and the Phillips Area Food Pantry, joining the many MaineCF donors who are helping to make food available during the pandemic health crisis. "The community foundation helps us focus on the region while raising our awareness of broader issues," notes Larissa.

- You can plan your legacy
- Funds grow tax free
- Anonymous giving is allowed
- You'll learn more about other causes in Maine
- You're giving locally: Administrative fees support a Maine organization.

For more information, contact Laura Young, vice president of philanthropy, lyoung@mainecf.org or call her directly at 207-412-0844.

Photo: Grants from donor-advised funds have supported Preble Street and its food program, which feeds hundreds of people each week. Volunteers, including Anna Marr and Jesse Brand, have kept meals coming during the pandemic with their work in the kitchen. Photo Sijie Yuan

Investing for the Long Term

MaineCF's Investment Committee exercises oversight and control of the foundation's investment funds. The committee, which reports to the MaineCF Board of Directors, currently has nine members. All are year-round or seasonal Maine residents. Elizabeth Hilpman has served as chair of the investment committee for the past seven years. Jim Geary is MaineCF's vice president, chief financial officer and director of investments. Peter Rothschild is the foundation's chief investment officer. In this Q & A, Hilpman, Geary, and Rothschild highlight the foundation's long-term investment perspective and some of the challenges and successes of the investment program.

What is the role of MaineCF's Investment Committee and how has MaineCF's investment program been adjusted to respond to the volatile markets?

Elizabeth Hilpman: The Investment Committee plays many roles: policy making, setting the asset allocation and liquidity targets, shaping the role of the consultant, and monitoring the overall performance of the portfolio. The committee is a dedicated group of current and former MaineCF board and advisory members. Most have substantial professional investment experience. Their complementary skill sets empower the foundation to pursue superior risk-adjusted results and efficiently respond to volatile markets in a deliberate and measured approach.

How long has MaineCF been investing its assets?

Jim Geary: At the end of 1984, the first full year the foundation was in business, we had an investment portfolio of \$535,000. The portfolio grew steadily and by the end of 1996 was over \$30 million and included diversified investments in publicly traded equities around the world. In 1997 we further diversified by adding allocations to venture capital/private equity and marketable alternatives. Looking back, 1997 was the year our current thinking about diversification was implemented.

What is the primary goal of the community foundation's investment program?

Geary: Our Investment Policy Statement says it best: "The long-term investment objective of the Maine Community Foundation is to preserve and enhance the real value of the assets of the foundation over time, in order to provide a sufficient rate of return for fulfilling the philanthropic purposes of the foundation." In short, we want investment returns to earn 5% in real terms after accounting for the impact of inflation. Five percent is the approximate amount required to cover grants

(currently 4% based on a 12-quarter rolling average) and the administrative fee of roughly 1% to cover the operating expenses of the foundation.

How do our investment results compare to those of other community foundations?

Peter Rothschild: MaineCF is a long-term investor. Other community foundations may often report higher short-term returns, but MaineCF's investment results compare very favorably to our peers over longer terms. For example, over a 20-year span, MaineCF shows a 6.8% rise compared to 5.5% for the average community foundation.

Does MaineCF offer a socially responsible portfolio?

Geary: We do. The screens include traditional ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) as well as fossil fuel screens. We have offered an ESG-screened portfolio since the late 1990s. We added a fossil fuel screen to the portfolio in 2015. At the end of 2019 we selected a new manager to run the overall strategy. Their track record dating back over 20 years is impressive.

What lessons were learned from the 2008 recession and the current COVID-19 crisis?

Rothschild: There were many lessons learned in 2008 and others learned long before that.

- *If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is not true.* When investment valuations get out of line, you must pay attention and consider defensive strategies. We did this in 2007, before the market crashed in 2008, and we did it again in 2019, before the COVID-19 crisis hit in 2020.
- *Don't panic and sell good investment at a loss.* We had enough liquidity to take advantage of market dislocation to buy good assets at a discount in both 2008 and 2020.



Jim Geary at the Charlotte Rhoades Butterfly Garden in his hometown of Southwest Harbor. Geary is in his 19th year as CFO at the community foundation. Photo Sijie Yuan

- *None of us know when the markets are going to turn volatile.* As a result, we have built the MaineCF portfolio to handle market disruption through diversification and liquidity.
- *During a crisis, you must spend time looking forward.* After the crisis hits is not the right time to become defensive. Chances are good it is too late.
- *Diversification always matters.* There are times when you will not be rewarded for diversification, which is why we established a target asset allocation for the portfolio. We agree on the allocation when markets are not stressed and work hard to stick to the allocation, or pretty close, in good times and bad. The target allocation gives us the best chance to achieve long-term goals.

The foundation changed investment consulting firms last year from Cambridge Associates to Monticello Consulting Group. Why?

Hilpman: Cambridge Associates was our consultant for 20 years. They provided excellent service and advice for the entire length of our relationship. Changes at the firm led

the MaineCF Investment Committee and staff to consider other options. Monticello rose to the top of the list during the four-month evaluation process, which included on-site interviews. In the end, they emerged as a good fit for the foundation in terms of the number of clients, their client asset size and, most importantly, the overall approach they take in their investment analysis.

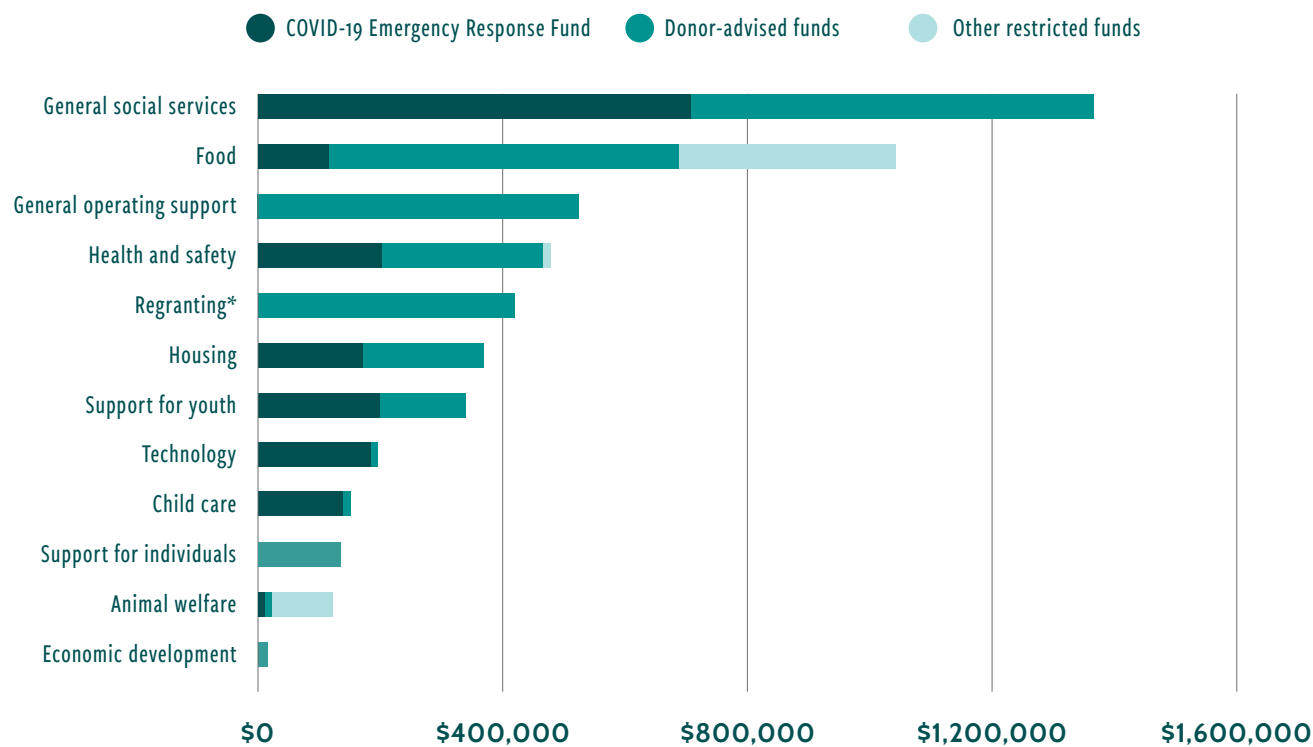
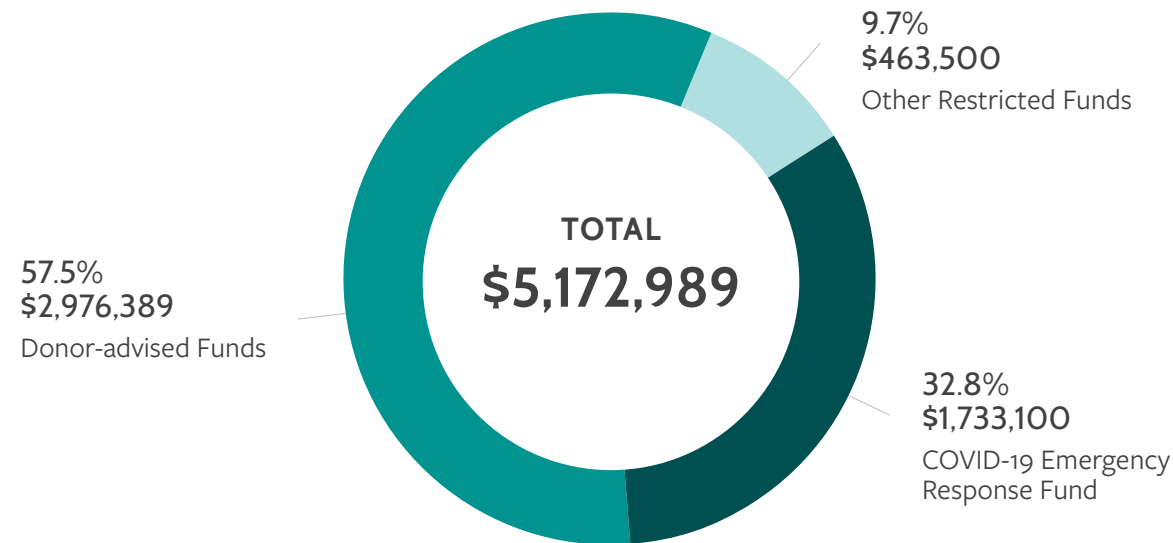
What have you been telling donors concerned about their funds?

Geary: We've had a limited number of phone calls from donors, but for those who ask, the answer is: We are long-term investors. We have a diversified portfolio that is designed to hold up in volatile markets. We maintain significant liquidity so that we can buy assets when they are undervalued. We hold a sufficient amount of cash and bonds in the portfolio to cover several years of grantmaking, so we are not forced sellers of our assets. Lastly, we hold an operating reserve that is equal to almost a full year of our operating budget. The reserve will help fund the operations of the organization for an extended period of time.

Funding Sources for COVID-19 Response

Grants deployed quickly from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund totaled more than \$5.1 million through early June.

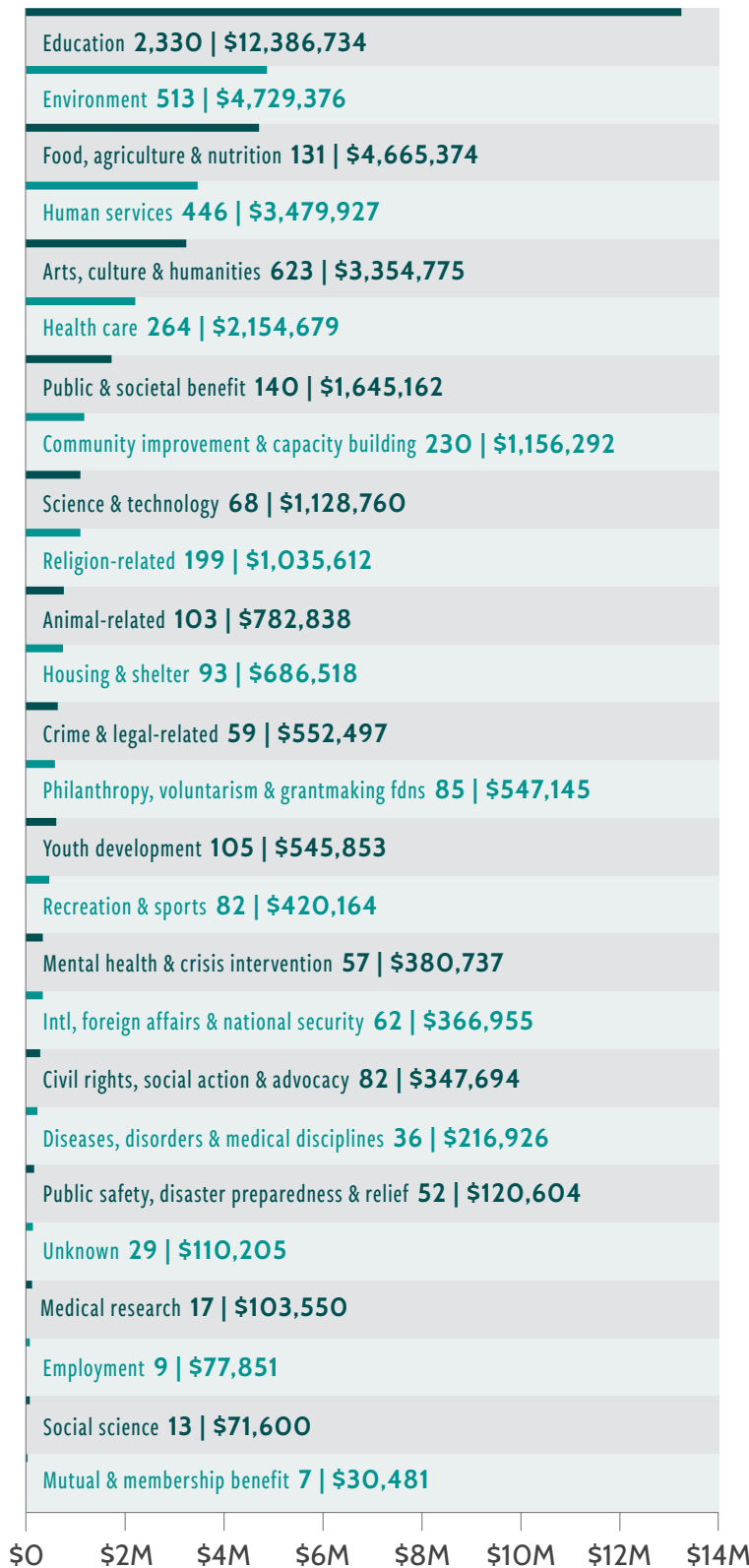
Immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Maine, MaineCF set up the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to help meet emerging needs. In addition to funds contributed to the COVID fund by donors and the public, MaineCF was able to use restricted funds to meet food, animal welfare, and other needs, and support donor giving through donor-advised funds. Together, we were able to help Maine's most at-risk populations through this challenging time.



*Grants to intermediate organizations for regranting, such as United Way

MaineCF Grants by Category in 2019

Total grants: 5,835 | Total dollars: \$41,098,309



Ways to Invest in Maine

When you give through the Maine Community Foundation, you join thousands of charitably minded individuals who are committed to strengthening Maine. Our in-depth knowledge of the state and expertise in philanthropy can help you transform your passion for giving into powerful, meaningful change.

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US:

Give Now

Lead with Us: Donate to a Fund

Help us strengthen Maine communities by giving to the community foundation's county and regional funds or partnering with us through statewide flexible funds that include our five strategic goal funds and unrestricted Invest in Maine Fund.

– OR –

Name Your Passion: Create a Fund

Thinking about starting a family or corporate foundation? A donor-advised fund, named or anonymous, may be a tax-advantaged and convenient alternative. A scholarship, a fund to support a favorite organization, or a particular cause – we can help you fulfill your passions through philanthropy that means the most to you.

Give Later

Give to the Future: Make a Planned Gift

Your legacy can be shaped to support the causes you care about now and provide financial and estate savings. Everyone has a legacy. What's yours?

TO LEARN MORE

Visit www.maineCF.org or call Laura Young, vice president of philanthropy, at (207) 412-0844, or email her at lyoung@mainecf.org for a confidential consultation.

2019 Financials

BY THE NUMBERS

\$42 Million

TOTAL GIFTS

\$41 Million

TOTAL GRANTS
AND SCHOLARSHIPS

\$3.1 Million

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
TO INDIVIDUALS

\$588.7 Million

TOTAL ASSETS
As of 12/31/19

+14.3%

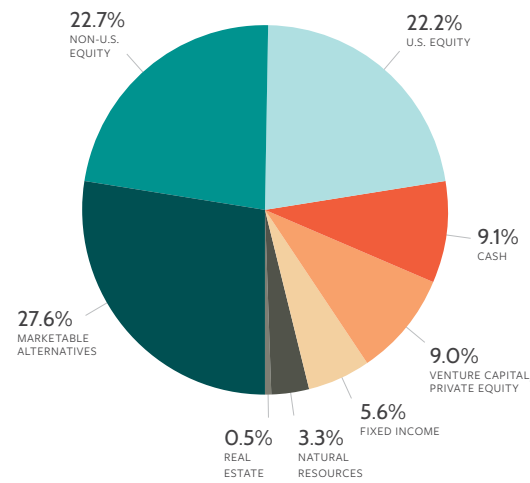
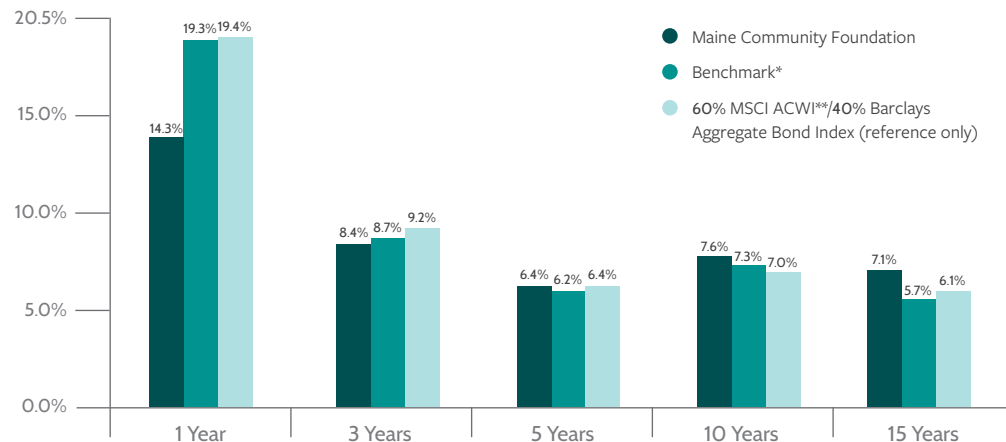
INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO

The goal of the Maine Community Foundation's investment program is to preserve and enhance the real value of assets over time. To accomplish this goal, the community foundation pursues diversified asset allocations and utilizes more than 40 different investment managers who employ a broad array of strategies and span the globe. Additional financial and investment information is available at www.mainecef.org/investments.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Effective stewardship of philanthropic assets is the key to building permanent charitable funds that can help strengthen Maine communities. MaineCF has maintained a sound record of risk-adjusted returns that has served the foundation and its donors well over the long term. Our performance of 14.3% in 2019 trailed our benchmark by 5 percentage points. The underperformance reflects a defensive position that we started to put in place in the second half of 2018 and added to during 2019. When the COVID-19 crisis hit in early 2020, our defensive positions provided the intended protection against unprecedented market volatility.



*From 01/01/04 to 09/30/05, the benchmark was 55% Wilshire 5000 Total Market Index, 30% Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index, and 15% MSCI All Country World ex U.S. Index (net). From 10/1/2005 to 6/30/2012, the benchmark was 35% Wilshire 5000 Total Market Index, 15% MSCI World ex U.S. Index, 5% MSCI Emerging Markets Index (net), 5% Wilshire U.S. REIT Index, 5% Natural Resources Blend (50% Goldman Sachs Commodity Index, 50% MSCI World Natural Resources Index), 20% HRFI (Hedge Fund Research Inc.) Fund of Fund Composite Index, and 15% Barclays Capital Government Bond Index. From 7/01/2012 to 12/31/2016, the benchmark was 35% S&P Total Market Index, 20% MSCI All Country World ex U.S. Index (net), 5% Wilshire U.S. REIT Index, 5% Natural Resources Blend (50% Goldman Sachs Commodity Index, 50% MSCI World Natural Resources Index), 20% HRFI (Hedge Fund Research Inc.) Fund of Funds Composite Index, and 15% Barclays Capital Government Bond Index. Starting 1/1/2017 the benchmark consisted of 55% MSCI ACWI, 5% Wilshire U.S. REIT Index, 5% Natural Resources Blend (50% Goldman Sachs Commodity Index, 50% MSCI World Natural Resources Index), 20% HRFI (Hedge Fund Research Inc.) Fund of Funds Composite Index, and 15% Bloomberg Barclays Government Bond Index.

**MSCI's All Country World Index (ACWI) is the accepted gauge of the global public stock market. It provides a view across all sources of public equity returns in 47 developed and emerging markets.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For 2019, MaineCF's primary investment portfolio gained **14.3%** while our benchmark index rose **19.3%**. Our overall strategy and principal goal remain the same: to balance risk in order to preserve and grow capital for charitable purposes. The following highlights provide financial figures as of December 31, 2019, with comparative information for the preceding year.

Financial Highlights for the Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2019, and 2018

Assets	2019 (Unaudited)	2018 (Audited)
Donor-advised funds	\$221,529,055	\$196,192,212
Funds held for nonprofit organizations	108,334,629	88,502,015
Funds designated to specific organizations	86,865,553	79,667,433
Field-of-interest funds	94,761,823	88,561,991
Scholarship funds	49,593,747	48,562,477
Charitable gift annuities and other planned gifts	6,014,680	3,296,997
Special programs	3,839,995	3,019,722
Supporting organizations	9,325,574	8,629,692
Operations	8,440,541	6,466,926
Total Assets	\$588,705,597	\$522,899,465

Gifts Received and Additions to Component Funds

Donor-advised funds	\$21,522,303	\$20,456,739
Funds held for nonprofit organizations	12,621,810	7,748,575
Funds designated to specific organizations	2,207,250	4,911,380
Field-of-interest funds	1,230,821	5,980,851
Scholarship funds	2,614,295	2,441,056
Charitable gift annuities and other planned gifts	1,098,283	99,868
Special programs	781,350	301,444
Supporting organizations	0	1,047,992
Operations	6,275	26,057
Total Gifts and Additions to Component Funds	\$42,082,387	\$43,013,962

Grants Paid and Distributions from Component Funds

Donor-advised funds	\$18,265,527	\$23,991,983
Funds held for nonprofit organizations	4,843,316	9,560,986
Funds designated to specific organizations	6,047,937	3,245,000
Field-of-interest funds	3,251,981	3,471,842
Scholarship funds (individual awards and institutional grants)	7,591,734	2,768,980
Supporting organizations	242,343	769,806
Other grants	855,471	728,004
Total Grants and Distributions from Component Funds	\$41,098,309	\$44,536,601

The annual audit of the 2019 statements was not complete at the time this report was printed. If you would like an audited financial statement, please contact Vice President and Chief Financial Officer James Geary by email, at jgeary@mainecf.org, or by phone, at 877-700-6800. You can also visit www.mainecef.org to view audited financial statements, tax returns, and to learn more about the community foundation's investment program.

New Funds 2019

Donors and nonprofit partners established 79 new funds at the Maine Community Foundation in 2019, bringing the total number under management to more than 2,000. We hope this small sampling conveys a sense of their commitment to Maine.

Community Health Options Fund

A donor-advised fund to benefit nonprofit organizations in Maine that address access to basic needs such as food, shelter, and health

Eric Davis Jazz Fund

A donor-advised fund to promote and support traditional jazz music performance and education in Midcoast Maine as a legacy for Eric Davis

Friends of Lithgow Library Fund

Two agency funds to support the Lithgow Library in Augusta: a board-designated endowment to support current and new library programs and a capital improvement fund for restoration and special building improvements

Natural Resource Education Center at Moosehead Fund

Two agency funds to support the Natural Resource Education Center at Moosehead in Greenville: for general support of the center and to provide funding for staff, projects, and equipment in support of fisheries management in the Moosehead Lake region

Palmer Family Fund

A donor-advised fund with a primary purpose to support youth

Philip P. Thompson Jr. Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund to benefit any student from Casco Bay High School in Portland who is attending either Dartmouth College or the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Saint Dominic Academy Fund

A designated fund to be distributed annually to Saint Dominic Academy in Auburn for scholarships and education

Tamarack Ledge Scholarship Fund

A designated scholarship fund to provide scholarship assistance to a graduating senior from Mount Desert Island High School

Tony Sohns Nature Education Fund

A donor-advised fund to support programs in Maine that inspire people to understand, appreciate, respect, and be curious about the natural world

To find out how you can start a fund at the foundation, visit the “Support/Start a Fund” section at www.mainecef.org.

Maine Community Foundation Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Karen W. Stanley, Castine, Chair
D. Gregg Collins, Caribou, Vice-Chair

DIRECTORS

Sarah Chappell Armentrout, Lyman
Brian Bernatchez, Waterville
D. Gregg Collins, Caribou
Timothy Crowley, Caribou
Matthew DuBois, Skowhegan
Martha E. Dumont, Falmouth
Susan Hammond, Bangor
Elizabeth R. Hilpman, Woolwich*
Mark Howard, Boothbay**
Deborah Jordan, Camden
Peter Lamb, Kittery Point*
S. Peter Mills, III, Esq., Cornville
Adilah Muhammad, Lewiston
Brooke Parish, Castine
Matthew A. Polstein, Millinocket
Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, Embden
G. Steven Rowe, Portland, *ex officio*
Tihtiyas (Dee) Sabattus, Princeton

*Term limited in June 2020 ** Elected to board in June 2020

Our Mission

The Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. MaineCF is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and ensuring Maine is a safe, welcoming, and accepting place for everyone.

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Writing/editing: Andrea Nemitz, Carl Little

Design: Portland Design Co

Printer: Penmor Lithographers



Matthew DuBois, an entrepreneur from Skowhegan and a MaineCF board member, listens to Allan G. Johnson, keynote speaker at MaineCF's inaugural summit, “Privilege, Power, and Difference,” on November 1, 2016. Photo Jill Brady

Walking the Racial Equity Walk

Where does a statewide funding organization start to make racial equity a significant part of its work?

That was the question MaineCF asked in 2016 when it identified racial equity as one of five core areas that could improve the quality of life for all Maine people. The foundation knew it wanted to advance racial equity, but how?

MaineCF staff began by reviewing national research and interviewing more than 80 people who work in the field of racial equity and justice in Maine. Early in this work, it became clear MaineCF had to do more than talk the talk about racial equity. The foundation needed to walk the walk. President and CEO Steve Rowe stated, “We realized that we needed to develop and apply a racial equity lens to the foundation and all of its work. This includes our culture, policies, procedures, and all aspects of our strategic and responsive grantmaking.”

MaineCF hired OpenSource Leadership Strategies (OSLS) of Durham, North Carolina, to provide critical analysis

of the foundation’s operations and how they intersect with race. The consultants conducted a racial equity assessment and provided training for staff and board. It also helped MaineCF establish its Equity Leadership Team to guide learning and ensure the work engages all staff. Gloria Aponte C., senior program officer and racial equity strategic goal manager, leads the team.

“Dedicating time to deeper understanding about racial equity alongside our colleagues is an incredible opportunity. We must do more than learn, however. We must turn knowledge into meaningful action,” says team member Hannah Whalen, MaineCF director of philanthropy and donor services.

Four years into the racial equity initiative, MaineCF as an organization is still learning – and striving for a future when all people in Maine have access to opportunities and life outcomes that are not determined or predictable in any way by race or ethnicity.

Call to Action

If you would like to contribute to any Maine Community Foundation fund that addresses issues in Maine such as COVID-19, climate change, racial equity, early childhood education, access to education, thriving older people, entrepreneurs and innovators, community building in counties, or any other statewide issues, you can do so online at www.mainecef.org through the Give Now link. We also accept contributions by mail, addressed to Maine Community Foundation, 245 Main Street, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

On the Cover: **FACES of RESILIENCE**



Photos Sijie Yuan

Crystal Cron: Founder, Presente! Maine

“As Black, brown, and indigenous people we are always fighting for our lives. Community care and collective well-being are central to our fight, because we are only free if we are all free. During a time of crisis we show up for one another because it is our duty. The giving of food is one small act to show that we are here: for ourselves, for each other and for the movement. Presente!”

Mark Swann: Executive director, Preble Street, Portland

“Since the middle of March, we’ve distributed more meals than ever before in our history and collaborated with partners to open two new shelters so people experiencing homelessness in Portland are safe. I am in continued awe and admiration of the determination of staff and volunteers to ensure the people we serve are fed and sheltered, and to prioritize health and safety for everyone in our community. The support of Preble Street friends, supporters, and partners during this forbidding public health crisis proves that Mainers really do care deeply about their neighbors in need.”

Jason Parent: Executive director, Aroostook County Action Program

“What else can I do to help? What more can we do to support our community?” These are the most frequently asked questions of the hidden heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic serving on the front lines of the effort to meet the growing needs of Aroostook County residents struggling to support themselves and their families at this unprecedented time. I could not be prouder of our ACAP Team. They have been a true blessing to so many across The County we are privileged to serve. They have been a blessing to me and each other. With great appreciation and awe, and because of this amazing team, our darkest hour is also our finest.”

Kristen Miale: President, Good Shepherd Food Bank

“During the pandemic, Good Shepherd Food Bank’s staff and partners showed incredible dedication and willingness to pivot and do whatever it took to get food out the door to our community partner agencies and their clients. Our volunteers, team members, and partner agencies are the superheroes during this trying time. I have never been more proud to serve with these dedicated individuals and this network.”